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It doesn't matter if you own the skinniest, flabbiest body in the world - whether you are tall or short young or not so young, you really can muscle up instantly by using our easy to follow step-by-step HERCULES II plan. It's entirely safe and so easy to do next to other courses. It will amaze you! There are no gimmicks, gadgets or costly weights to buy. Just simple, yet terrifyingly effective steps to muscledom. It only takes a few minutes a day of your time.

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THEY'VE GOT ME TRAPPED...THEY'LL CAPTURE ME...OR SHOOT ME IN COLD BLOOD...LIKE I SHOT THE FUZZ!
TRASK SHOT DETECTIVE MULLOY... HE'S HIDING NEAR THE CELLAR ENTRANCE TO THAT CONDEMNED TENEMENT!
RRRRR
EDITOR...GEO. WILDMAN
WRITER...JOE GILL
ARTIST...NICHOLAS AND ALACIA
IN HERE, FRIEND... QUICK, BEFORE THEY GET HERE!
YEEEEE!
WHAT A STINK.... IT SMELLS LIKE A GRAVE!
QUICK.... THEY'RE COMING!
GHOST MANOR
P-4026
1

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HURRY...THEY'RE OUT IN FRONT!
THIS STUPID CREEP IS GONNA HAVE THE FUZZ CRAWLIN' ALL OVER HIS PAD...BUT I'LL BE LONG GONE BEFORE THEN!
CALL THE EMERGENCY SQUAD... WE'RE GOING TO BREAK IN HERE...WE'LL SEARCH THE PLACE FROM ROOF TO CELLAR!
DON'T WORRY, THEY WON'T FIND YOU, FRIEND! HEH HEH HEH...THEY NEVER FIND ANYONE WHO SEEKS REFUGE IN THE HOUSE!
OUTSIDE, AS THE POLICE CLOSED IN, NEIGHBORS CAME OUT....
YE WON'T FIND THE KILLER, OFFICER! HE'S NOT THE FIRST BLACKHEARTED SCOUNDREL TO HIDE IN THAT OLD PLACE...AND NONE OF THEM WAS EVER SEEN AGAIN!
WE'VE GOT MEN ON THE ROOF AND STATIONED IN BACK! A RAT COULDN'T ESCAPE FROM THERE NOW!

GET BACK! DON'T COME NEAR ME!
DO YOU HAVE ANY FOOD WITH YOU? I...WE'RE STARVING!
YOU SAID WE...WHO ELSE IS IN HERE WITH YOU?
MAKE THEM KEEP AWAY! IF YOU DON'T, I'LL START SHOOTIN'...AND THE FUZZ WILL GRAB US ALL!
WHAT A FINE FELLOW! HEE HEE HEE! COME, TAKE MY HAND...LET US BE FRIENDS!
DON'T BE AFRAID OF US...WE SHARE EVERYTHING! HEE HEE HEE!
CRASH
THE FUZZ
COME ON...HURRY UNLESS YOU WANT TO HANG FOR KILLING THAT MAN!
WHERE YOU BEEN, PAL? NOBODY HANGS FOR MURDER ANY MORE!

THE STAIRS ARE BROKEN... BE CAREFUL!
THE FUZZ WILL SEARCH THE CELLAR TOO... THEY'LL FIND US!
YOU SEE? THEY WON'T FIND US DOWN THERE, FRIEND!
NOT ME! I'M NOT GOIN' DOWN IN THAT HOLE WIT' YOU CREEPS!
YOU'RE EMOTIONALLY UPSET, MY FRIEND! PUT AWAY YOUR WEAPON... I ASSURE YOU IT WOULD DO YOU NO GOOD HERE!
HE'S IN HERE SOMEWHERE! HE MUST BE!
HE'S GOT COMPANY, THEN! LOOK AT THE FLOOR!
4

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TRASK HAS SHOES ON...BUT WHOEVER WAS HERE FIRST IS BAREFOOT!
THE STEPS LEAD TOWARD THE STAIRS TO THE CELLAR!

TRASK!
HE'S TERRIFIED!
EEEEEIIIII!!!

WATCH THE BROKEN STEP, SHULTZ!

IN THE CELLAR, THEY FOUND MORE FOOTPRINTS.....
MORE BAREFOOT PRINTS... SEVERAL DIFFERENT KINDS... I THINK THE MURDERER IS IN TROUBLE!

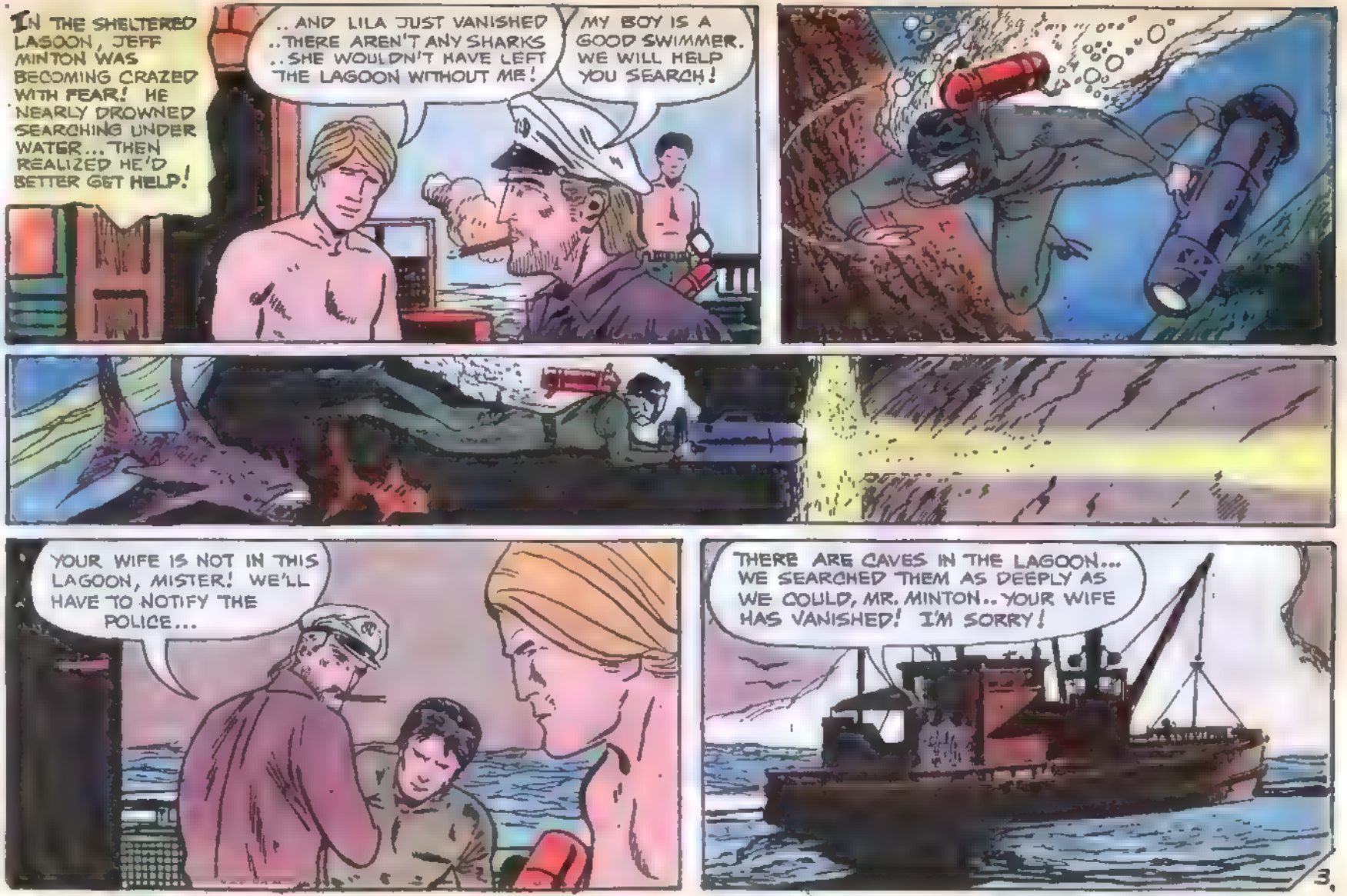
THEY'RE NOT DOWN HERE... AND THERE'S NO OTHER WAY OUT!

LOOK... FOOTPRINTS ALL OVER THE FLOOR.. EXCEPT IN THAT ROUND AREA!
LOOK... A CANDLE WAS LEFT BURNING... IT'S A CINCH TRASK DIDN'T HAPPEN TO HAVE IT IN HIS POCKET!
THERE MUST BE ANOTHER CELLAR DOWN THERE! GIVE ME A HAND... WE'LL PRY THIS OPEN!
THE HEAVY CIRCULAR SLAB OF CONCRETE YIELDED TO THE PINCH BAR THE EMERGENCY SQUAD COP USED AND.....
GOOD GOD! LOOK, SULLIVAN!
THEY'RE DRAGGING ME DOWN! HELP ME!

KICK HIM AWAY ...WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
BLAM! BLAM!
ONE OF THEM LURCHED INTO THE CANDLE...IT FELL INTO OLD RUBBLE ON THE FLOOR AND....
COME ON!
A WEEK LATER...AFTER DETECTIVES AND FIRE INSPECTORS HAD SIFTED THROUGH THE RUBBLE...
NOTHING IN THE ASHES, INSPECTOR! YOU CAN GO AHEAD WITH YOUR PLANS NOW!
EXCELLENT! THE NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS WILL LIKE THE CHANGE ANYHOW!
THE COPS UPSTAIRS BARELY HAD TIME TO RACE DOWN BEFORE FLAMES ENGULFED THE OLD BUILDING!!!
WHAT ABOUT THE GUYS WE SAW? THE CREEPS IN THE CELLAR?
THEY'LL JUST HOLE UP BENEATH THE CELLAR.... THEY WON'T BE SINGED!
DEEP BENEATH THE GROUND...IN ANCIENT RAT-LIKE BURROWS...NAMELESS, FACELESS MEN HEARD THE RUMBLE OVER THEIR HEADS! THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT CAUSED THE SOUND...AT FIRST!
THE BULLDOZERS SEALED OFF THE CELLARS.... THE MYSTERIOUS OLD HOUSE IS GONE...THE MYSTERIES STILL REMAIN UNSOLVED!
END

AT A BEACH ON ONE OF THE OUTER ISLANDS OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, A HONEYMOONING COUPLE WERE SWIMMING IN THE CRYSTAL CLEAR WATERS.. IT WAS A SHELTERED LAGOON - FREE OF SHARKS OR BARRACUDA, SO LILA AND JEFF MINTON WERE EXPLORING THEIR UNDERWATER WORLD WITHOUT FEAR...
BUT..THIS WAS A MISTAKE FOR THERE WAS EVIL LURKING IN THAT INNOCENT-SEEMING WONDERLAND.. AS A SHADOWY FIGURE EELED BETWEEN TWO CORAL HEADS AND SWAM TOWARD THE GIRL...
EDITOR GEORGE WILDMAN
WRITER JOE GIST
SATAN'S POOLS
PAT BOYETTE
OH, NO!
D 4093
1.

JIM... HELP ME!
WHERE IS SHE?
EVER SINCE I TAUGHT HER HOW TO SKIN-DIVE, LILA HAS TAKEN CHANCES...
BUT.. SHE CAN'T STAY DOWN THIS LONG...
LILA HAD NO CHOICE.. FOR HER ABDUCTOR ONLY IGNORED HER DESPERATE STRUGGLES AS HE SWAM INTO THE BLACK MAW OF AN UNDERGROUND CAVE..
2.


IN THE SHELTERED LAGOON, JEFF MINTON WAS BECOMING CRAZED WITH FEAR! HE NEARLY DROWNED SEARCHING UNDER WATER... THEN REALIZED HE'D BETTER GET HELP!
..AND LILA JUST VANISHED ..THERE AREN'T ANY SHARKS ..SHE WOULDN'T HAVE LEFT THE LAGOON WITHOUT ME!
MY BOY IS A GOOD SWIMMER. WE WILL HELP YOU SEARCH!
YOUR WIFE IS NOT IN THIS LAGOON, MISTER! WE'LL HAVE TO NOTIFY THE POLICE...
THERE ARE CAVES IN THE LAGOON... WE SEARCHED THEM AS DEEPLY AS WE COULD, MR. MINTON.. YOUR WIFE HAS VANISHED! I'M SORRY!

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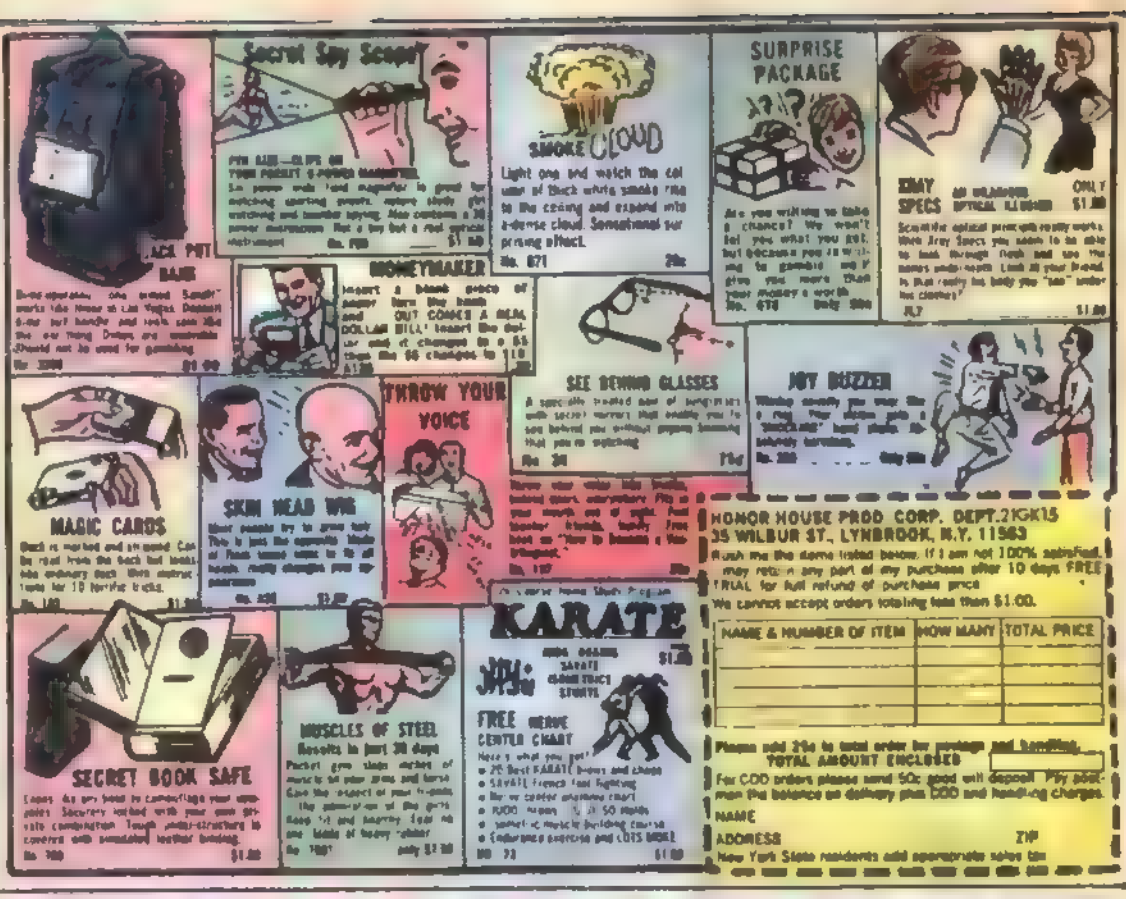
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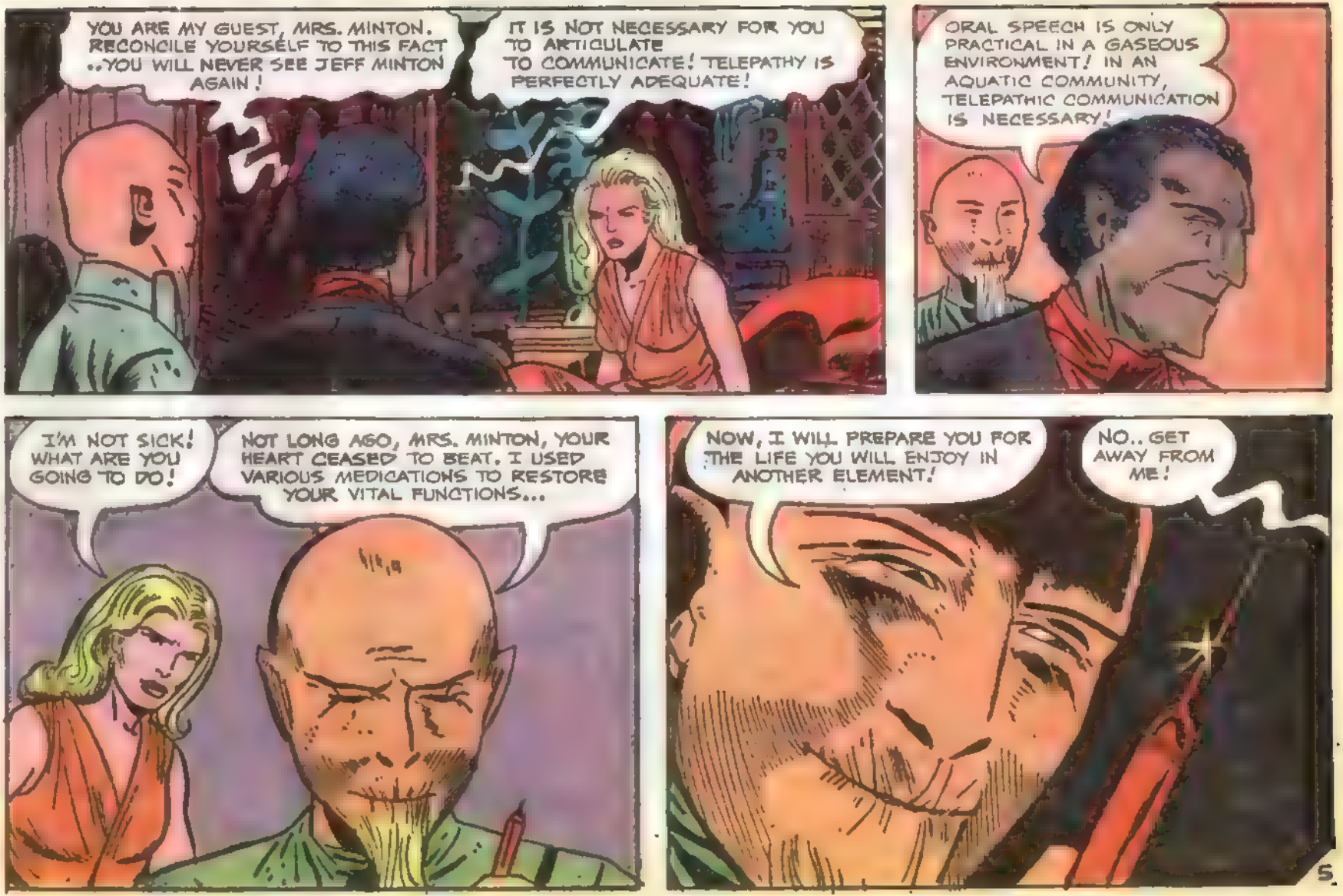
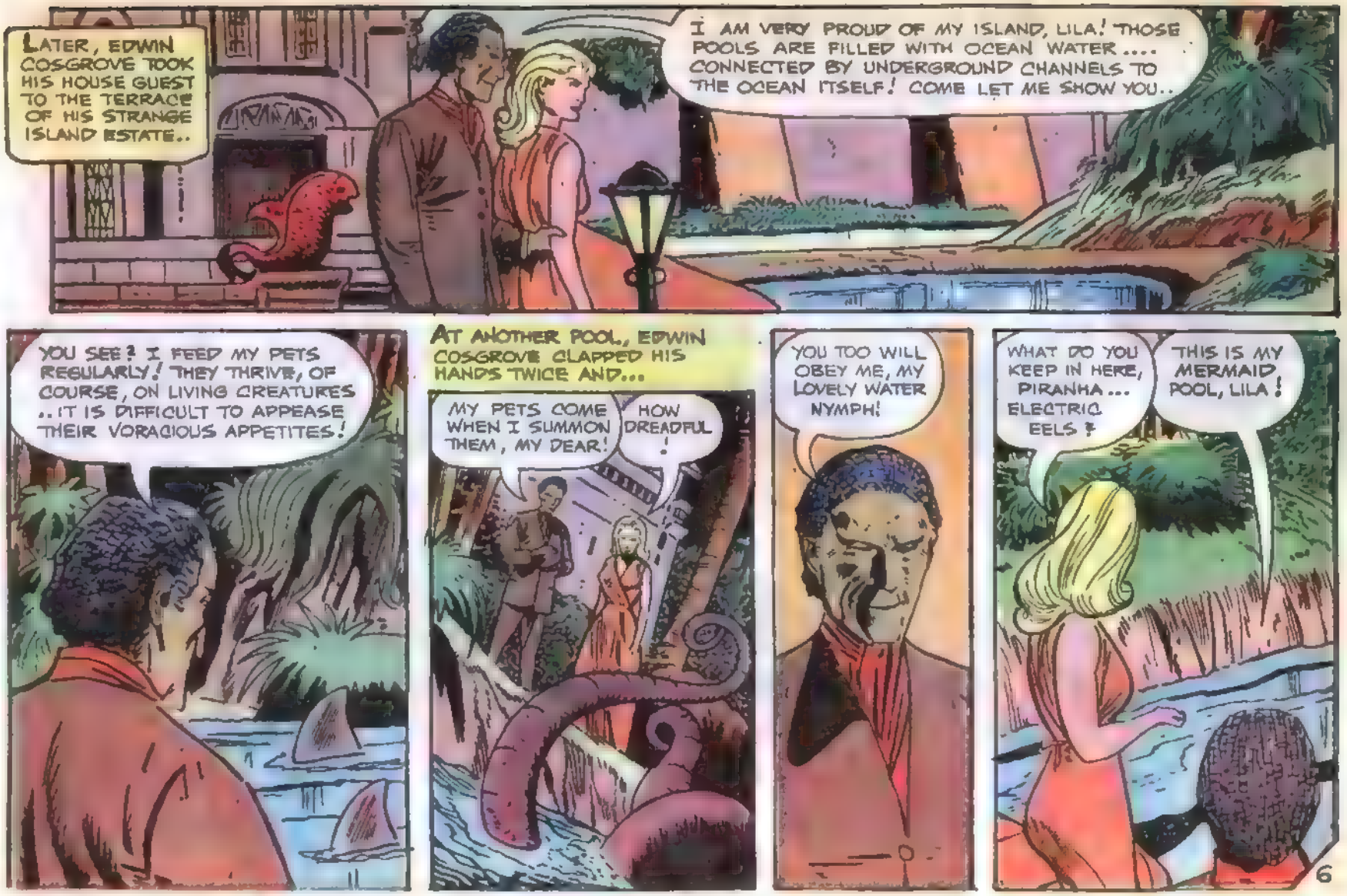
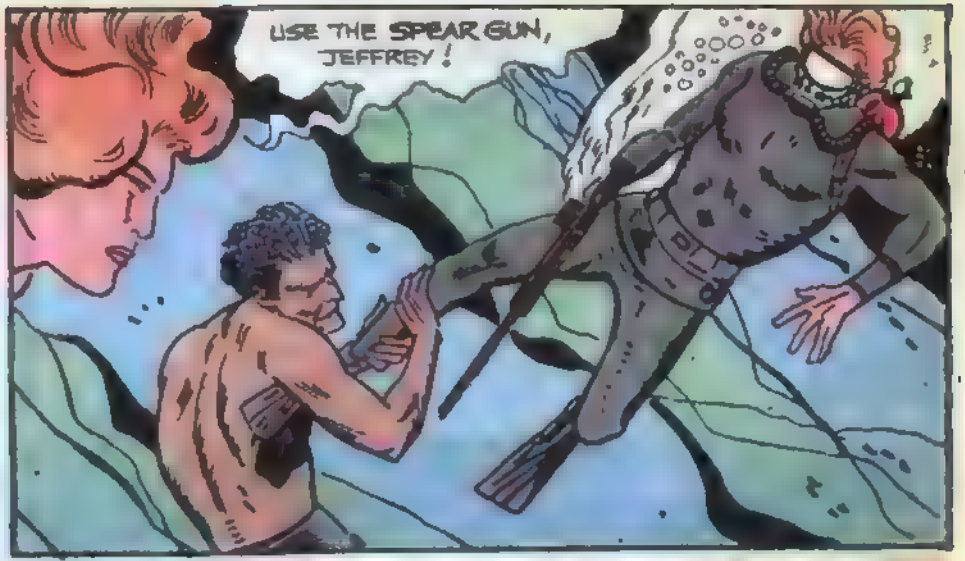
MEANWHILE, THE OBJECT OF THEIR SEARCH WAS...
HMMM.. AN EXCELLENT SPECIMEN, ROBERT!
REMOVE HER! ASK DR. KUNAJ TO ATTEND HER! I WILL SPEAK WITH HER LATER!
AND..
I THOUGHT I WAS DROWNING...
THIS ISN'T OUR HOTEL!
WHERE AM I?
WHERE'S JEFF!
I ASSUME YOUR HUSBAND'S NAME IS JEFF! FORGET HIM! THAT PHASE OF YOUR LIFE HAS ENDED!
I..I DIDN'T ACTUALLY HEAR THAT..
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? JEFF IS MY HUSBAND! WHERE IS HE?
4

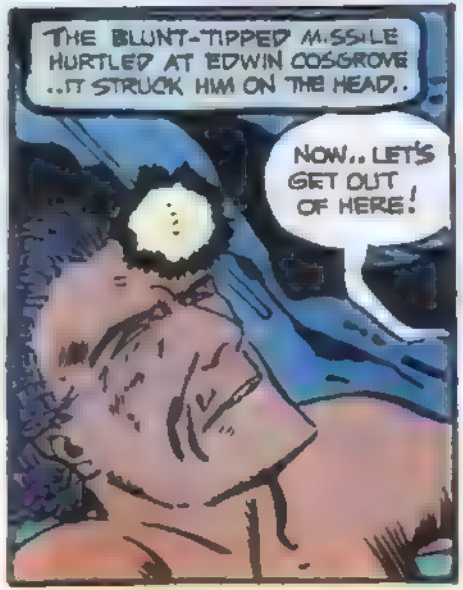

YOU ARE MY GUEST, MRS. MINTON. RECONCILE YOURSELF TO THIS FACT ..YOU WILL NEVER SEE JEFF MINTON AGAIN!
IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR YOU TO ARTICULATE TO COMMUNICATE! TELEPATHY IS PERFECTLY ADEQUATE!
ORAL SPEECH IS ONLY PRACTICAL IN A GASEOUS ENVIRONMENT! IN AN AQUATIC COMMUNITY, TELEPATHIC COMMUNICATION IS NECESSARY!
I'M NOT SICK! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO!
NOT LONG AGO, MRS. MINTON, YOUR HEART CEASED TO BEAT. I USED VARIOUS MEDICATIONS TO RESTORE YOUR VITAL FUNCTIONS...
NOW, I WILL PREPARE YOU FOR THE LIFE YOU WILL ENJOY IN ANOTHER ELEMENT!
NO.. GET AWAY FROM ME!


LATER, EDWIN COSGROVE TOOK HIS HOUSE GUEST TO THE TERRACE OF HIS STRANGE ISLAND ESTATE..
I AM VERY PROUD OF MY ISLAND, LILA! THOSE POOLS ARE FILLED WITH OCEAN WATER.... CONNECTED BY UNDERGROUND CHANNELS TO THE OCEAN ITSELF! COME LET ME SHOW YOU..
YOU SEE? I FEED MY PETS REGULARLY! THEY THRIVE, OF COURSE, ON LIVING CREATURES ..IT IS DIFFICULT TO APPEASE THEIR VORACIOUS APPETITES!
AT ANOTHER POOL, EDWIN COSGROVE CLAPPED HIS HANDS TWICE AND...
MY PETS COME WHEN I SUMMON THEM, MY DEAR!
HOW DREADFUL!
YOU TOO WILL OBEY ME, MY LOVELY WATER NYMPH!
WHAT DO YOU KEEP IN HERE, PIRANHA... ELECTRIC EELS?
THIS IS MY MERMAID POOL, LILA!

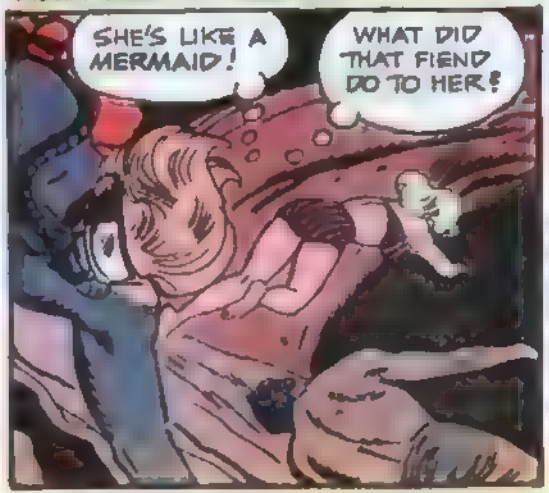
THERE ARE NO MERMAIDS!
THERE HAVE BEEN BEFORE NOW, MY DEAR. AND THERE WILL BE AQUATIC PEOPLE AGAIN!
NOW.. ENTER THE WATER LILA!
IN THIS WATER!
WITHOUT HESITATION, MRS. LILA MINTON DOVE INTO THE POOL —WITHOUT A RIPPLE OR A SPLASH AS A SEAL OR ANY OTHER AQUATIC CREATURE WOULD...
I HAVE NEVER SWAM THIS WELL BEFORE AND I DON'T SEEM TO NEED AIR!
YOU TAKE OXYGEN FROM THE WATER, MY DEAR! YOU HAVE BECOME A CREATURE OF THE SEA!

WHILE THIS WAS HAPPENING, JEFFREY MINTON WAS WIDENING HIS SEARCH...
THAT CAVE IS THE ONLY PLACE YOUR WIFE COULD BE, FRIEND! WE CAN TRACK YOUR RADIO SIGNAL ABOUT 100 FEET UNDER WATER! GO BEYOND THAT AND YOU'RE LOST...
RIGHT!
EVERYONE THINKS LILA IS DEAD.. BUT I FEEL SHE IS STILL ALIVE..I SEEM TO HEAR HER CALLING TO ME...
JEFF.. HELP ME!
LILA'S VOICE.. CALLING ME.. I'M SURE I CAN HEAR HER!
WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE?
YOU WILL BE MY BRIDE, LILA!
I WOULD RATHER DIE THAN BELONG TO YOU!
YOU STUPID WOMAN..I HOLD YOUR LIFE IN MY HANDS!

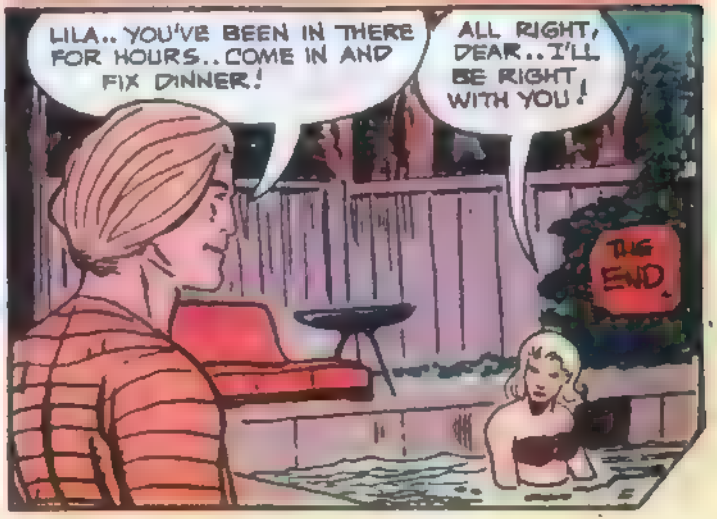




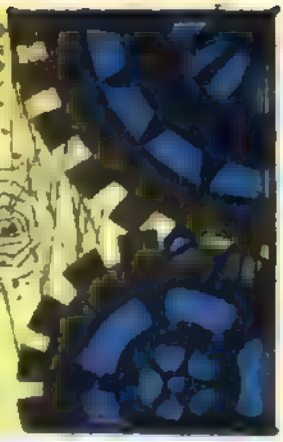
LILA SWAM SWIFTLY INTO THE BLACK MAW OF THE UNDERWATER TUNNEL.. BEHIND HER, JEFF FLASHED THE LIGHT, BUT SHE DIDN'T SEEM TO NEED IT...



LILA SEEMED TO RECOVER COMPLETELY.. EXCEPT SHE SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF TIME IN THE BACK YARD POOL!



WHEN TIME STOOD STILL



I have accepted the fact that I really am John Willington. Not because of what you esteemed gentlemen have told me. Nor of the fingerprints on record. Nor what people who knew me years ago have said. But only because my memory of my past years has slowly returned to me. On the other hand, it is most difficult for me to realize that though I am on the calendar of life 65 years old, I am only 30 years old - that somehow time stopped for me for a period of 35 years.

I realize that I shall be a sort of double curiosity the rest of my life. Scientists of all kinds will be after me to try to find how it is possible for me to exist for such a period of time with apparently no water nor food and not to age at all. Those interested in the supernatural world will want to know if spirits, ghosts, or other non-world creatures had anything to do with the situation.

As it became apparent that Hitler was preparing for World War II, a message of urgency came to me from my uncle, Frederick Untermann. With the permission of our government, I made that trip for the sole purpose of taking to this country a fortune in diamonds. I have been informed that their present value exceeds ten million dollars. Also that the German Government as well as our Government acknowledge that I am the only lawful heir to that fortune. So I shall have no worries about money for the rest of my life.

I remember now very clearly what happened to me on that so-called last day of my life. I had the diamonds in a belt around my body. I was being pursued by Lieutenant Rudloph Hoffman and members of the German Secret Police. My car ran out of fuel. I abandoned it and ran across a wooded field. They were in close pursuit of me. Then, suddenly, the ground opened and I started to fall as though I was taking a long trip into the world below us.

I landed unhurt on what I think was a stone pavement. There seemed to be a kind of dim, blue light there. I could see figures in white. They came closer and closer to me, then moved away. Dr. Maximillian Kessler, who is present here, has checked the area. I was only discovered when the German government decided to build an underground vault in that area to house important documents. I can well understand how frightened the workers must have been when they came across me as though I was in a trance.

Dr. Kessler has pointed out that for three centuries a castle had been in that area. The last occupant, a Count Berchumer, had been convicted of practicing the Black Arts. He was burned alive and his castle torn down. So, apparently, I did land in some kind of an underground vault centuries old. Records of that trial still exist in Rheims. And Dr. Kessler did make a careful examination of them.

Count Berchumer was charged with asking the spirits of the under-world to aid him. He wanted to change lead into gold—a dream of the alchemists. People in the village swore that they saw ghosts enter the castle on moonless nights. But the strangest thing of all is that the Count did not deny the charges made against him. He said it all was true—that they were killing him just when he was about to learn two great secrets. One, to change lead into gold. The other, how to make an elixir of life-to keep a person young forever.

The workmen that found me also found three bars of gold at my feet. A gift to me? Professor Johann Gelten has tried to come up with an answer. He has been kind enough to go through many birth records. And this is what he found: Count Berchumer was a widower. There was a child, but raised by somebody else. When that boy became a man he did take the name and title of his deceased father. He became a famous warrior. My great great grandmother was Edna Berchumer! So that makes me in a sense a descendent of Count Berchumer.

Could it be that some kind of a destiny took me to that spot? That he wanted to save me? By he, I could only mean either the spirit or ghost of that tragic man. I will admit that I have given much contemplation to this possibility. Unless somebody can come up with something better, I feel I will accept it. Which means there is a world beyond this world inhabited by spirits or ghosts.

When I left for Germany, I was engaged to Helen Dengal. Three years after my apparent death, she married. She did come to see and identify me. I will say her grown daughter looked the way she did years ago. And it was painful to see how she had aged. Her words before she left were," "I can't believe it. But it is true! He is alive and as young as when he left me."

I know that the entire world is waiting to see if I age, or continue to be young forever. One thing is certain. Were it not for these strange inexplicable events, I would have been entombed alive.

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MY MAIN MUSICAL INTEREST IS (check one box only)

☐ Easy Listening ☐ Teen Hits ☐ Country ☐ Classical

Whichever Club I've joined, all select ons will be described in advance in the C ub magazine sent every four weeks. If I do not wish any selection, I'll mail the card provided by the date specified, or use the card to order any selection I do want. If I want only the regular selection for my musical interest, I need do nothing — it will be shipped automatically. Occasionally, I'll be offered special selections which I may accept or reject by using the dated form provided.

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☐ Mrs.
☐ Miss

(Please Print) First Name Initial Last Name

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City ..... State ..... Zip .....

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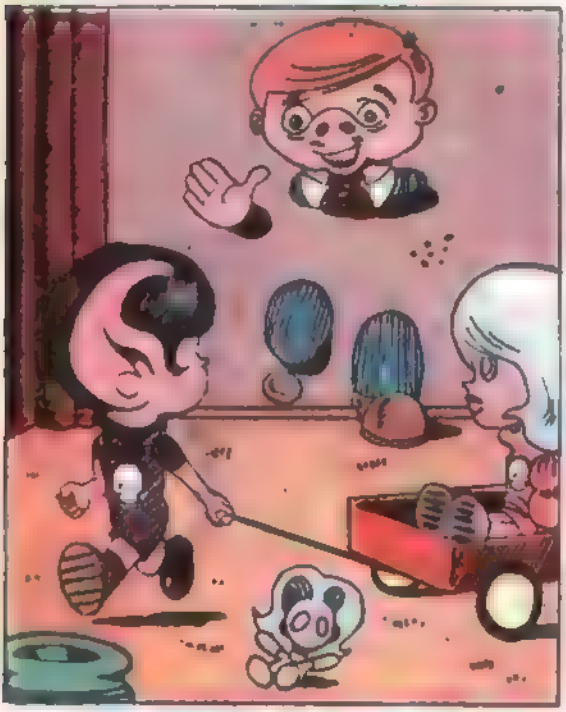

PARDON MY BARGING IN, KIDS, BUT YOUR BELL MUST BE OUT OF ORDER.

THIS TELESCOPE IS FANTASTIC. IT MAKES THE MOON SEEM CLOSE ENOUGH TO TOUCH!

THEY SAID THEY NEEDED SOMEONE OF A HIGHER CALIBER.

LOOK, ELENORA, IT'S "BABY-FACE" COOGAN!

A HELPING HAND!

WHAT A NICE EVENING FOR A STROLL... IT'S A WARM NIGHT, A BIT HUMID HERE IN THE SWAMP, BUT PETE LA DOE DOESN'T MIND... NOR DOES HIS CLIENT, J. D. HANSEN, A REAL DUDE WHO WAS NEVER IN A SWAMP LIKE THIS BEFORE!

HANSEN TOLD LA DOE HE DIDN'T WANT TO GO FISHING OR HUNTING... HE JUST WANTS A NICE, SECLUDED PLACE TO STAY FOR A FEW WEEKS... MAYBE EVEN MONTHS! SO PETE SUGGESTED TO J. D. HANSEN THEY STAY AT PETE'S LITTLE SHACK SO DEEP IN THE SWAMP NO OTHER PERSON HAS EVER SEEN IT!

NO ONE CAN FIND US AT YOUR SHACK, CAN THEY, PETE?

DON'T WORRY, MR. HANSEN! WHEN I TOOK YOU ACROSS THEM LOGS AND THEN FLOATED THE LOGS OUT INTO THE WATER....THE TRAIL ENDED....

EDITOR... GEORGE WILDMAN
WRITER... JOE GILL
ARTIST... Steve DITKO

....EVEN FOR THE BLOODHOUNDS!

WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

DON'T GET ANY IDEAS ABOUT USIN' THAT GUN ON ME MR. HANSEN YOU MIGHT BE SAFE FROM THE FUZZ IN HERE BUT....
BUT WHAT, PETE?
YOU AIN'T SAFE FROM THE SWAMP, MR. HANSEN.
THE SWAMP IS DEADLY IF YOU DON'T KNOW IT MR. HANSEN! THERE ARE BULL CROCODILES IN THERE THIRTY FEET LONG . . .SNAKES THAT'LL KILL YOU IN A FEW MINUTES....
...SCORPIONS AND TARANTULAS THAT'LL BITE YOU THE MINUTE YA FORGET TA TAKE CARE!
THAT SATCHEL FULL O' MONEY WON'T IMPRESS THE CROCS OR RATTLESNAKES A BIT HANSEN! YOU NEED ME MORE THAN THE MONEY!
IF YOU TOUCH THE BRIEFCASE, YOU'LL DIE, PETE!

TAKE GOOD CARE OF ME, PETE.... AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU!
IT'S A DEAL, MR. HANSEN.. ...YOU'VE GOT MY WORD!
YOU'VE GOT MY WORD AND EVERY-BODY KNOWS PETE LAJOIE NEVER BREAKS HIS WORD!
NIGHT WAS FALLING.... THROUGH THE SWAMP CAME THE SOFT SLITHERING SOUNDS, TERRIFYING J.D. HANSEN.... THE SCURRYING OF FEET AND THEN THE SPLASH AS THE BULL CROC ENTERED THE WATER!
IT'S GETTIN' LATE, MR. HANSEN! BETTER TURN OUT THE LANTERN AN SACK IN!
HE'S ASLEEP....I COULD TAKE HIM NOW BUT I'LL WAIT....
....I WANNA DO IT NEAT... ...I DON'T WANNA LEAVE ANY TRACE OF THE CRIME!
3

PETE PLAYED IT REALLY COOL....A DAY PASSED, THEN ANOTHER....HANSEN KEPT WATCHING PETE, SENSING THE DANGER IN HIM BUT....
WATCH WHERE YER STEPPIN', MR. HANSEN! LOTSA SNAKES AROUND....
WHY ANYONE WOULD LIVE IN THIS SWAMP IS BEYOND ME!
IN CASE YOU THINK I'M A CHICKEN-HEARTED TENDERFOOT, PETE, I THINK I SHOULD TELL YOU I KILLED TWO MEN TO GET THAT MONEY!
WELL, DON'T GET ANY IDEAS ABOUT ME, MR. HANSEN!
PETE HALTED BESIDE A SMOOTH SURFACE... IT QUIVERED SLIGHTLY ..HANSEN LOOKED WORRIED AS PETE STARTED ACROSS THE .. LOG BRIDGING THE STAGNANT POOL!
STAY CLOSE TA ME, HANSEN!
DON'T WORRY, PETE....
ALL PETE HAD TO DO WAS USE AN OLD LOGGER'S TRICK....STAMPING THE LOG SIDE-WAYS AND....
YAAGGHH!
SO LONG, MR. HANSEN! I'LL TAKE REAL GOOD CARE HOW I SPEND YOUR MONEY!
PETE WAITED BESIDE THE QUICKSAND....BUT HANSEN WAS GONE WITHOUT A TRACE! THEN PETE GOT THE MONEY AND LEFT THE SWAMP!
DANGER
DO NOT PASS
BEYOND
THIS
POINT!

PETE STOPPED IN A ROADHOUSE NEAR THE SWAMP... HE ORDERED A THICK STEAK AND AN EXPENSIVE DRINK....AND PAID WITH HANSEN'S STOLEN MONEY!
JUST A MINUTE, YOUNG FELLA!
LET'S SEE THAT BANKROLL....
THEY HAD THE SERIAL NUMBERS OF THE BILLS...
YEAH, JAKE....IT'S PETE LAJOIE, THE SWAMP RAT.... BRING THE BLOODHOUNDS... WE'LL RUN 'IM DOWN!
I'LL LOSE THEM.... NOBODY CAN CATCH ME IN HERE!
HE WADED SHALLOW STRETCHES....DOUBLED BACK ON HIS TRAIL....HE CONFOUNDED THE SHERIFF'S BLOODHOUNDS FOR A WHILE BUT SOON...
OWWWOOOOOO!
OL' RED'S CUTTIN' SIGN, SHERIFF!
5

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IT SWALLOWED UP HANSEN.... IT'LL SWALLOW ANYBODY WHO TRIES TO CROSS IT!
SOMETHIN' GOT M....
NO, IT CAN'T BE!
NO!
THE POSSE DIDN'T FIND A TRACE OF PETE LAJOIE
THERE'S PETE'S SHANTY OVER YONDER.... I'LL TAKE A LOOK AROUND....BUT I DON'T THINK ANYONE'LL EVER SEE PETE LAJOIE AGAIN!

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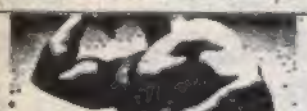

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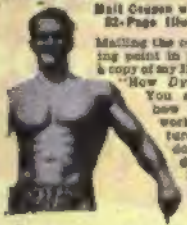

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